

Applicant : Beach et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been cancelled in this application and replaced with new claims 19-41, which have been copied from claims 1-4, 8, 12, 15, 20, 21, 25-27, 29, 32, 33, 37, 38, 42-44, 48, 50 and 51, respectively, of WO 01/43467, published on June 14, 2001 and are believed to be the same as original claims in corresponding U.S. Patent Application No. 09/457,624, filed December 8, 1999 (noted on WO 01/43467), for the purpose of provoking an interference.

New claims 19-41 distinguish over the prior art references Fischer U.S. Patent No. 5,502,726; Base U.S. Patent No. 6,137,797; Sturniolo U.S. Patent No. 6,154,461, and Portaro U.S. Patent No. 5,946,617, which had been cited against original claims 1-18, because these references do not disclose or suggest the features of new claims 19-41.